



Legal Community Against Violence

expertise, information & advocacy to end gun violence

Date: July 13, 2004

For Immediate Release

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**WITH LESS THAN 15 DAYS LEFT TO ACT,
WILL BUSH KEEP HIS WORD ON ASSAULT WEAPON BAN?**

-- Despite President's repeated promises to support ban, landmark law will expire if Congress adjourns without action --

(San Francisco, CA) – President Bush and Congress have less than 15 legislative days to act on the federal assault weapon ban adopted in 1994 and subject to a 10-year sunset on September 13, 2004. If President Bush does not work to save the landmark law before Congress's scheduled late-July adjournment, the assault weapon ban will surely expire.

Quoting an aide to U.S. House Speaker J. Dennis Hastert (R-Ill.), the May 12 issue of *The Hill* reported that "if Bush pushes for it, the ban will probably be reauthorized. But if he doesn't, the chances of legislation's passing this year are remote."

But in the June 24 edition of *The Boston Globe*, White House spokesperson Ken Lisaius said that Bush still supports the ban, but is waiting for the House to act.

"It is well past time for the President – who leads the majority party in Congress – to back up his words with action," said Sue Ann Schiff, Executive Director, Legal Community Against Violence. "George W. Bush needs to stop playing politics with public safety and the lives of law enforcement."

Promises of Support; No Action

President Bush has repeatedly pledged support for banning assault weapons. During the 2000 campaign, George W. Bush said, "*It makes no sense for assault weapons to be around our society.*"

Last week, former Presidents Ford, Carter and Clinton sent a letter to President Bush urging him to make reauthorization of the assault weapon ban a top priority and offering their assistance to secure its passage. Each of them, along with former President Reagan, worked to support adoption of the 1994 law.

"Mr. President, your predecessors are joined by the overwhelming majority of Americans, a bipartisan majority of the United States Senate, and police officers from across the nation in support of banning assault weapons," said Schiff. "They understand that you hold the key. If the assault weapons ban dies, they will know who is responsible."

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Legal Community Against Violence (LCAV) is a public interest law center dedicated to preventing gun violence. Formed in the wake of the 1993 assault weapon massacre at 101 California Street in San Francisco, LCAV provides free legal assistance to activists and public officials, including law enforcement and government attorneys, working to prevent gun violence. To learn more about our services or to request assistance, visit our web site, www.lcav.org, the nation's most comprehensive source for information on U.S. firearms regulation.